AMENDMENTS

Please amend claims 11, 13, 14, 20, 21, 26, 32, 36, 37, 44, 50-61 to read as follows:

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11. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein said level of BAG-1 protein expression is determined by measuring the amount of BAG-1 protein product using an immunoassay.

13. (Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein said level of BAG-1 protein expression is determined prior to lymph node involvement of said cancer.

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14. (Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein said level of BAG-1 protein expression is determined after lymph node involvement of said cancer.

20. (Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein said level of BAG-1 protein expression is determined by measuring the level of BAG-1 protein that is detectable in samples selected from the group consisting of breast tumor tissue, blood, serum, and plasma.

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21. (Amended) The method of claim 16, further comprising determining if said level of BAG-1 protein expression represents an overproduction that is above a reference level of BAG-1 expression.

26. (Amended) The method of claim 25, further comprising:

(a) determining an overproduction level for BAG-1 protein, said level being in excess of a minimum amount statistically determined to be indicative of decreased likelihood of tumor recurrence or spread;

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(b) determining the level of BAG-1 protein expression in said tumor sample; and

(c) predicting said risk of tumor recurrence or spread wherein an overproduction level of BAG-1 protein in the tumor sample is negatively associated with the likelihood of tumor recurrence or spread.

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32. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 27, wherein the level of expression of BAG-1 protein is measured using an immunoassay.

36. (Amended) The method of claim 34, wherein said level of BAG-1 protein expression is determined prior to lymph node involvement.

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37. (Amended) The method of claim 34, wherein said level of BAG-1 protein expression is determined after lymph node involvement of said cancer.

44. (Twice Amended) A method for determining risk of tumor recurrence or spread in a patient suffering from breast cancer, said method comprising:

(a) determining, using a BAG-1 specific antibody, the level of expression of BAG-1 protein in a cancerous tissue of a patient during stage I or stage II of said cancer; and

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(b) classifying said patient as belonging either to a first group of patients having high levels of expression of BAG-1, or a second group of patients having low levels of expression of BAG-1,

wherein said first group has a lower likelihood of tumor recurrence or spread than said second group, thereby determining a lower risk of tumor recurrence or spread in the first group of patients suffering from breast cancer.

50. (Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein said level of BAG-1 protein expression is determined by measuring the level of BAG-1 protein in a sample of breast tumor tissue.

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51. (Amended) The method of claim 25, wherein said level of BAG-1 protein expression is determined by measuring the level of BAG-1 protein in a sample of breast tumor tissue.

52. (Amended) The method of claim 27, wherein said level of expression of BAG-1 protein is determined by measuring the level of BAG-1 protein in a sample of breast tumor tissue.

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53. (Amended) The method of claim 34, wherein said level of BAG-1 protein expression is determined by measuring the level of BAG-1 protein in a sample of breast tumor tissue.

55. (Amended) The method of claim 54, wherein said level of BAG-1 protein expression is determined by measuring the level of BAG-1 protein in a sample of breast tumor tissue.

56. (Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein said level of BAG-1 protein expression is determined by immunohistochemistry.

57. (Amended) The method of claim 55, wherein said level of BAG-1 protein expression is determined by immunohistochemistry.

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58. (Amended) The method of claim 25, wherein said level of expression of BAG-1 protein is determined by immunohistochemistry.

59. (Amended) The method of claim 27, wherein said level of BAG-1 protein expression is determined by immunohistochemistry.

60. (Amended) The method of claim 34, wherein said level of BAG-1 protein expression is determined by immunohistochemistry.

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61. (Amended) The method of claim 44, wherein said level of expression of BAG-1 protein is determined by immunohistochemistry.

{Please add new claims 62-66:}

--62. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein said level of BAG-1 protein expression is determined by measuring the level of BAG-1 protein in a sample of body fluid containing breast cancer cells.

63. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein said level of BAG-1 protein expression is determined by measuring the level of BAG-1 protein in a sample of body fluid containing breast cancer cells.

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64. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein said level of expression of BAG-1 protein is determined by measuring the level of BAG-1 protein in a sample of body fluid containing breast cancer cells.

65. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein said level of BAG-1 protein expression is determined by measuring the level of BAG-1 protein in a sample of body fluid containing breast cancer cells.

66. (New) The method of claim 54, wherein said level of BAG-1 protein expression is determined by measuring the level